

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02513 290951Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 809

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2513

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, PLOS

SUBJECT: GULF MARINE POLLUTION AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN KUWAIT:

UNEP ROLE IN MOVEMENT TO CLEAN UP THE GULF

REF: KUWAIT 1706

1. SUMMARY: A KUWAIT CONFERENCE ON POLLUTION IN THE GULF (APRIL 22-24) RESULTED IN APPROVAL OF SEVERAL AGREEMENTS WHICH, IN CONCERT, PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR COORDINATED ACTION BY UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM (UNEP), ALL GULF GOVERNMENTS AND OMAN TO STEM MARINE POLLUTION IN THE REGION. REGIONAL BODIES ARE TO BE SET UP IN KUWAIT AND BAHRAIN TO ATTACK PARTS OF THE PROBLEM, AND A UNEP-INSPIRED ACTION PLAN POINTS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02513 290951Z

THE WAY TO ADDITIONAL STEPS WHICH COULD BE TAKEN. THE CONFERENCE WENT WELL AND WAS A CREDIT TO UNEP LEADERSHIP IN THIS FIELD. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTERS FROM SEVEN GULF COUNTRIES AND OMAN ATTENDED A REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT ON MARINE POLLUTION APRIL 22-24. THEY APPROVED A UNEP-INSPIRED REGIONAL

ACTION PLAN WHICH ENVISIONS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS, IDENTIFIES STEPS WHICH COULD BE TAKEN TO KEEP THE GULF CLEAN AND SUGGESTS TYPES OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS WHICH COULD FORM THE BASIS FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTION AGAINST POLLUTION. THEY ALSO SIGNED A CONVENTION, PROTOCOL AND SEVERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTING THE ANTI-POLLUTION EFFORT. TAKEN TOGETHER THESE FORM A 167 PAGE DOCUMENT (POUCHED TO NEA/ARP).

3. CONVENTION. THE MINISTERS SIGNED A CONVENTION FOR PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND COASTAL AREAS. IT BINDS THE PARTIES IN VERY GENERAL TERMS TO TAKE "ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES," AGAINST POLLUTION FROM SHIPS, AIRCRAFT, LAND SOURCES, SEABED EXPLOITATION AND OTHER HUMAN ACTIVITIES. THE PARTIES ALSO UNDERTOOK TO COOPERATE IN DEALING WITH POLLUTION EMERGENCIES, IN USING ANTI-POLLUTION TECHNOLOGY, IN ASSESSING THE MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF NATIONAL PROJECTS, AND IN DEVELOPING LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION PROCEDURES FOR CIVIL LIABILITY AND VIOLATIONS OF THE CONVENTION. THE CONVENTION SETS UP ON PAPER A REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT (ROPME) IN KUWAIT, THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF WHICH WILL MEET ANNUALLY AND THE SECRETARIAT OF WHICH WILL BE LOCATED IN KUWAIT.

4. PROTOCOL. THE PROTOCOL BINDS THE PARTIES TO COOPERATE
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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 02513 290951Z

IN "MARINE EMERGENCIES" TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. IT PROVIDES FOR A MARINE EMERGENCY MUTUAL AID CENTER (MEMAC) TO COLLECT USEFUL INFORMATION ON EMERGENCIES, ADVISE PARTIES ON PREPARING THEIR OWN LAWS AND PROCEDURES TO HANDLE POLLUTION EMERGENCIES, AND DEVELOP CONTINGENCY PLANS AND INVENTORIES OF ASSETS WHICH COULD BE USED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

5. RESOLUTIONS. NOTING THAT THE CONVENTION DOES NOT COME INTO FORCE UNTIL FIVE OF THE EIGHT PARTIES HAVE RATIFIED, THE CONFERENCE CALLED ON UNEP TO STAFF THE ROPME ON AN INTERIM BASIS. (THE UNDP CHIEF HERE ESTIMATED THAT UNEP PEOPLE WOULD BE IN KUWAIT FOR MORE THAN A YEAR FOR THIS PURPOSE AND WOULD BE GRADUALLY REPLACED BY NATIONALS OF THE PARTY STATES.) ANOTHER RESOLUTION ACCEPTED THE OFFER OF UNEP TO CONTRIBUTE \$500,000 TO THE COSTS OF THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT AND AGREED THAT THE PARTIES WOULD CONTRIBUTE FIXED AMOUNTS TO A TRUST FUND TOTALING \$6,320,000 TO SUPPORT THE SECRETARIAT FOR 30 MONTHS. AN ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION FIXED BAHRAIN AS THE SITE OF THE MEMAC AND CALLED ON UNEP TO CONSULT WITH IMCO ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER AFTER THE PROTOCOL (PARA.

4) COMES INTO FORCE. A FINAL RESOLUTION CALLS ON REGIONAL METEOROLOGICAL EXPERTS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE ACTION PLAN AND CONSULT CONTINUOUSLY WITH THE INTERIM SECRETARIAT OF ROPME.

6. COMMENT: UN AND GOK SOURCES WHO ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE TOLD US THAT THEY WERE HIGHLY SATISFIED, NOT ONLY BY ITS RESULTS BUT BY THE SMOOTHNESS WITH WHICH THE MEETING PROGRESSED. THIS WAS LARGELY A REFLECTION OF PRIOR HARD WORK BY "EXPERTS," DURING A MEETING WHICH PRECEDED THE CONFERENCE AND DURING PRIOR DISCUSSIONS WHICH BEGAN SEVERAL YEARS AGO. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT YOUNG KUWAITI TECHNICIANS FROM THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO WERE RECEPTIVE TO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 KUWAIT 02513 290951Z

UNEP'S PUSH TO STEM POLLUTION ON SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS SUCH AS THE PERSIAN GULF, WERE THE PRIME MOVERS FOR KUWAIT IN THIS IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT.
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